



\$2.99 #12

Nodwick™

DUNGEON CRAWL



Nodwick

in:

DUNGEON CRAWL

SO WHERE
ARE WE GOING,
AGAIN?

I DON'T
KNOW. YEAGAR
SAID IT WOULD BE
A SURPRISE.

I HATE YEAGAR'S "SURPRISES." REMEMBER
WHEN HE TRIED SURPRISING US WITH A GOURMET
MEAL? THE HOUSE STILL REEKS OF IT
WHenever IT RAINS.



IT'S THE FORBIDDEN
LABYRINTH OF KROZ! IT WAS
ONE OF THE FIRST PLACES WE
ADVENTURED TOGETHER!

OH, YEAH...
I REMEMBER
NOW...

BUT DIDN'T
WE GET RID OF
ALL THE ICKY-
STINK MONSTERS?
IT'S DESERTED,
RIGHT?



NOT ANYMORE!
MY SOURCES TELL ME
IT'S RE-INHABITED WITH
LOADS OF TREASURE-
LADEN BEASTIES!

BUT AS I RECALL, THIS
PLACE DIDN'T PRESENT MUCH
OF A CHALLENGE TO US BE-
FORE. WHY ARE WE GOING
TO LOOT IT AGAIN?

BECAUSE IT ISN'T
A CHALLENGE, THAT'S WHY! MOST
OF OUR JOBS LATELY HAVE HAD US SOLVING
ANCIENT RIDDLES AND RISKING OUR LIVES
IN BATTLES THAT NO ONE WAS REIMBURSING
US FOR! TOO MUCH THINKING AND NOT ENOUGH
KA-CHING! WE'RE HERE TO HACK,
SLAY, AND HAUL IT AWAY!

IT'LL BE
A PAYING
VACATION!

Mazes,
Monsters,
and Mayhem!

Call Ahead and
Reserve your
Dungeon Delve!

Treasure aplenty awaits
the heroes bold enough to
ventre into the mighty
Forbidden Labyrinth of Kroz!
Just waiting in our dark
halls for you to come in
and get the goods down!

Lines will be forming
soon to get into the new
Forbidden Labyrinth of
Kroz, so if you want
the bloodbaths, you
get the hovey! We
also offer a line of
services just in case
you take on any too
creatures. See the card
for details!

Forbidden Labyrinth of Kroz
41 Valley of Peril and Despair
Box of Doom-on-the-Grain







CRUNCH!
WHACK!
POUND!
THUMP!
SMASH!

WHERE DID NODWICK GO?

OUR HEROES EVENTUALLY CAME TO NODWICK'S AID. THE BATTLE WAS SWIFT AND DECISIVE.

NOT A BAD HAIL FOR A FEW ORCS! A LITTLE GOLD AND A WEIRD-LOOKING JEWELLED DAGGER. I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S CRUSTED ON THE BLADE, BUT IT SMELLS LIKE THE TWO-COPPER SPECIAL AT 'MAMA JIBLETTO'S STOP-N-SLOP.'

YOU'VE GOT TO STOP CHARGING IN AND TAKING ON THE WORLD SINGLE-HANDEDLY. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE FOR!

OH, YES, SILLY ME. IT MUST'VE SLIPPED MY MIND.

SO ARE WE BACK TO THE OLD DRILLS FROM OUR EARLY ADVENTURING DAYS?

YOU BET! CHECK FOR SECRET DOORS!

I'LL START ON THE NORTH WALL. PIFFANY?

READY TO TIP-TAP ANY PASSAGES OUT OF HIDING!

IF YOU'RE SO FAMILIAR WITH THIS PLACE, WHY ARE YOU CHECKING FOR SECRET DOORS?

OLD TIMES SURE, MOSTLY. YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER, WE WERE JUST STARTING OUT THE LAST TIME WE WERE HERE, SO WE MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING.

UH, GUYS?

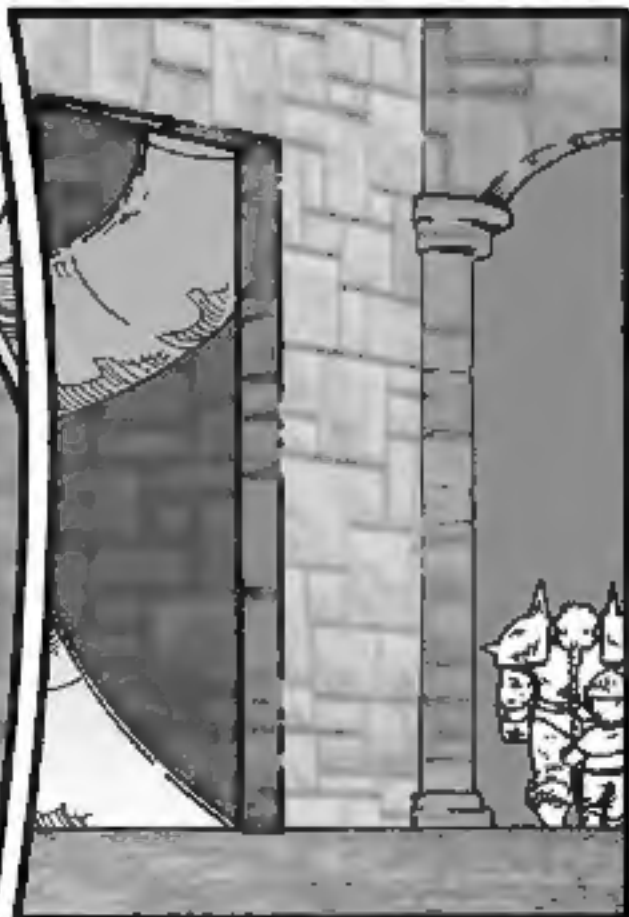
I'VE FOUND A HOLLOW SPOT, BUT I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING THAT OPENS IT.

HOW DUD. USUALLY THEY WERE PRETTY OBVIOUS. NO PROBLEM, THOUGH. A LITTLE "OPEN SESAME..."

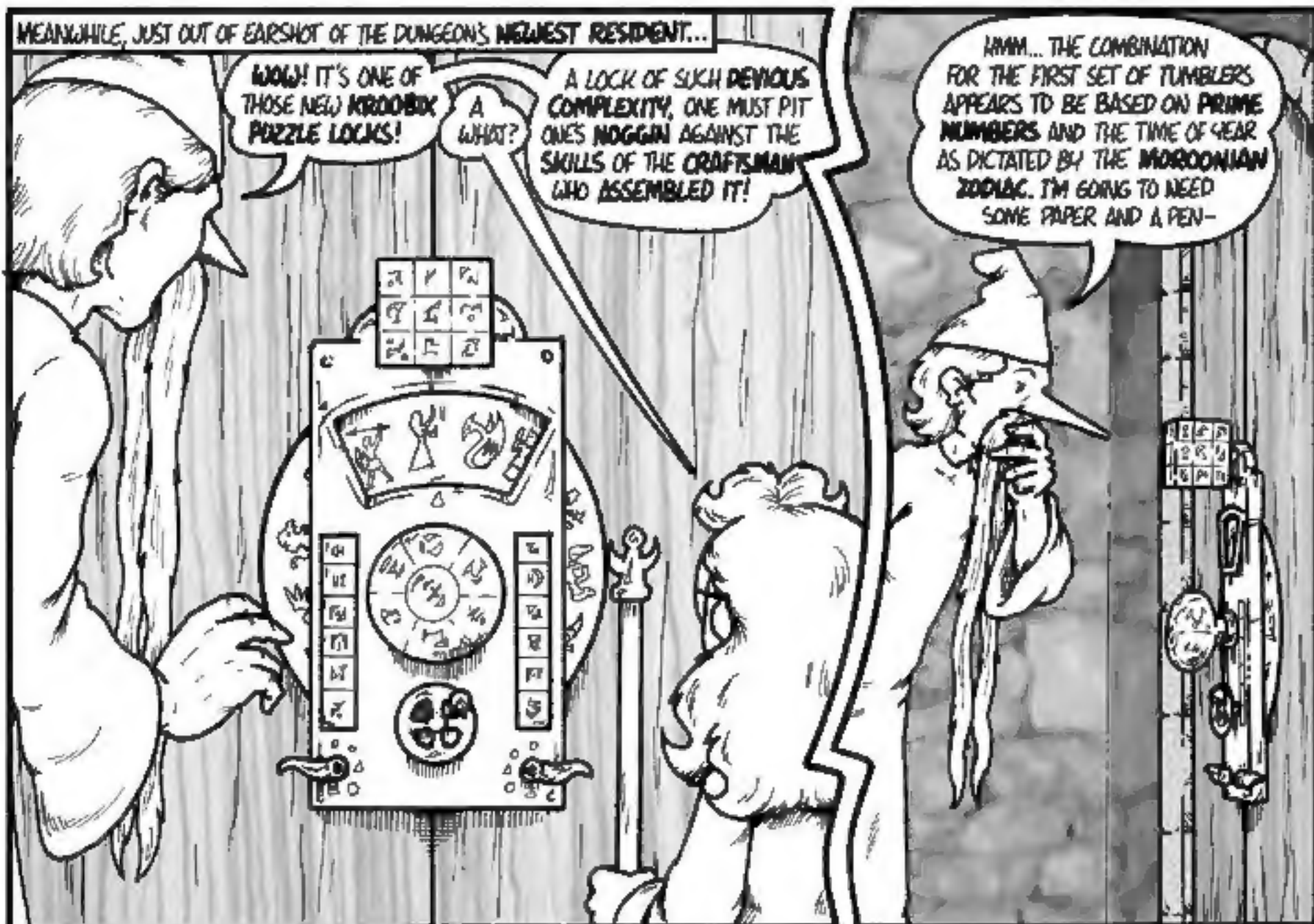
TA-DAA!

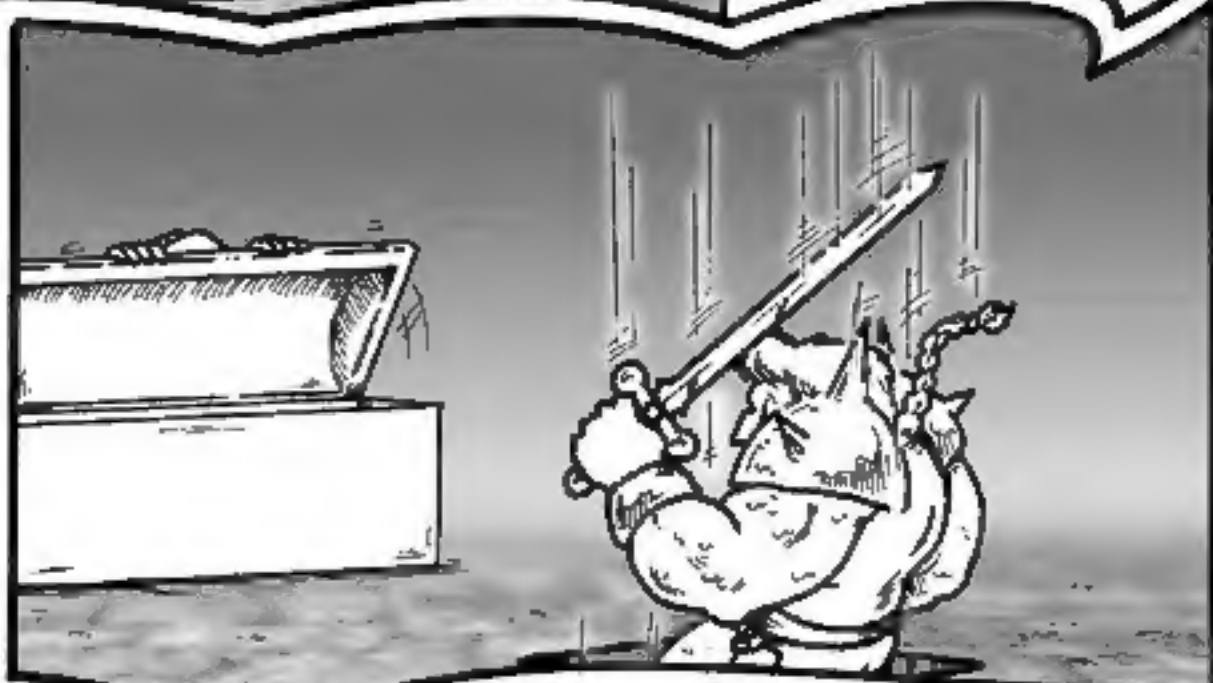
HUH. IT LOOKS LIKE THE BOTTOM OF A SLIDE.

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT KIDDIE RIDES IN THE BROCHURE. THIS "FAMILY FRIENDLY" STUFF IS GETTING OUT OF HAND!



MEANWHILE, JUST OUT OF EARSHOT OF THE DUNGEON'S NEWEST RESIDENT...







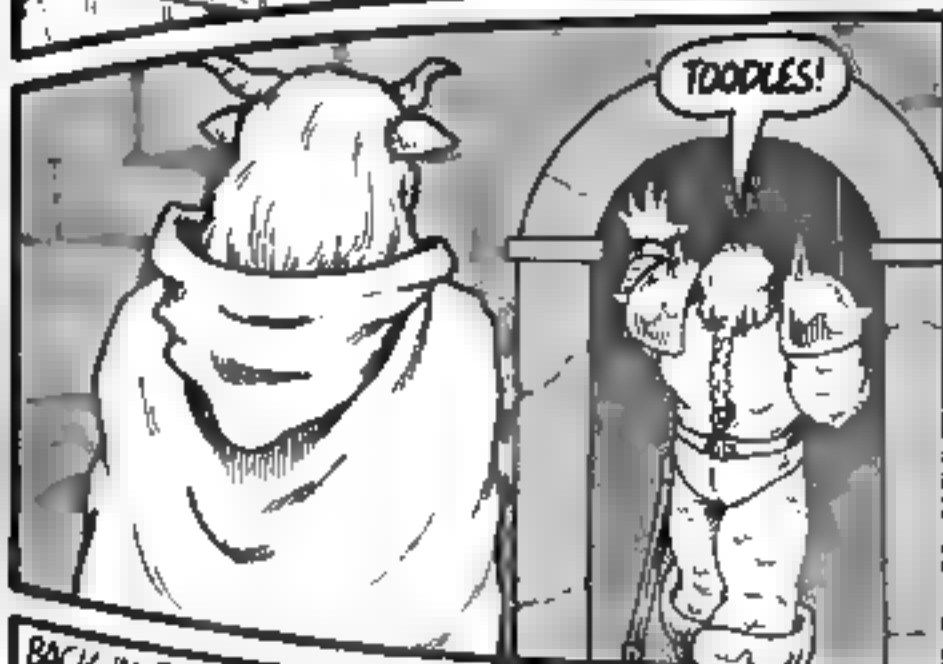


BUT YOU DON'T UNDER-
STAND! THIS PLACE—

NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THIS IS THE CLOSEST
THING TO A VACATION I'VE HAD IN A LONG, LONG TIME. I'VE HAD
TO GO ON QUESTS FOR CLERISH, I'VE HAD TO STOP DARK GODS, I'VE
HAD TO SAVE THE MENCHIMON'S GRAVEYARD, AND I'VE HAD TO DO ALL
KINDS OF THINGS THAT HAVE VERY LITTLE IN THE WAY OF
MONETARY COMPENSATION.

THIS DELVE INTO THE
UNDERGROUND IS MY
ONE CHANCE TO MAKE
SOME CASH WITHOUT
SOLVING ANCIENT RID-
DLES OR SAVING PEOPLE
WHO CAN'T REWARD
ME FOR DOING SO.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE
GOING TO SHUT UP AND
NOT TELL ME WHAT'S
REALLY GOING ON HERE,
BECAUSE I DON'T WANT
TO KNOW!!



TOODLES!



WHAT
A
JERK!

BACK AT
YA, PUKE
PUSS!

BACK IN THE UNDERCRYPTS.



I'D FORGOTTEN HOW
TOUGH COFFIN-CREEPERS CAN
BE WITHOUT A GOOD SWORD-
ARM AROUND.

NO KIDDING!
IT WAS HARD
WORK DE-
NAUGHTIFYING
THEM ALL!

THE CAVE TROLLS
THAT CAME IN TO SEE
WHAT ALL THE COM-
MOTION WAS ABOUT
DIDN'T HELP,
EITHER.

GOOD THING I
LOADED UP ON "BOLT
FROM THE BLUE" SPELLS
THIS MORNING.

UM...
WHAT'S
THAT?



YEAGAR AND COMPANY SOON FORGOT THE TROLL'S MYSTERIOUS TATTOO...



SMASH
'N' SLASH!

GOODNESS AND
HAPPY PUPPIES
SHALL PREVAIL!

EAT
MYSTIC
ENERGIES,
REPTILE!

SO DID YOU
ENJOY THEIR
HEROIC DIALOGUE?
WAS IT TOO CLICHÉ?
BE HONEST...



THAT'S
ANOTHER ROOM
CLEARED!

HOW! THIS
DUNGEON IS
A LOT LESS
STRESSFUL THAN
THE FIRST TIME
WE EXPLORED IT

WE'VE
IMPROVED
WITH AGE.
SAY, NODWICK?
WHAT'S OUR
TREASURE
HAUL LOOK-
ING LIKE?



WELL, LET'S SEE... SINCE
WE LAST TOOK STOCK, WE'VE
ACQUIRED THREE ROYAL SIGNET RINGS,
FOUR TIARAS, A GOLD SEAL FROM THE
COURT OF ANSERINIA, TWO JEWELLED
CROWNS, A SET OF "KELDORIAN ORDER
OF REGAL KNIGHTHOOD" SWORDS, AND
A RUBY NECKLACE INSCRIBED "TO MY
BELOVED PRINCESS HELEXIA."



AM I THE ONLY
ONE SEEING SOMETHING
UNUSUAL HERE?

WELL--

SHUT UP! OH,
LOOK! A TRAIL OF BLOOD!
HURRY, SOMETHING'S
GETTING AWAY!

IT IS HIS
ADVENTURE, I
GUESS.

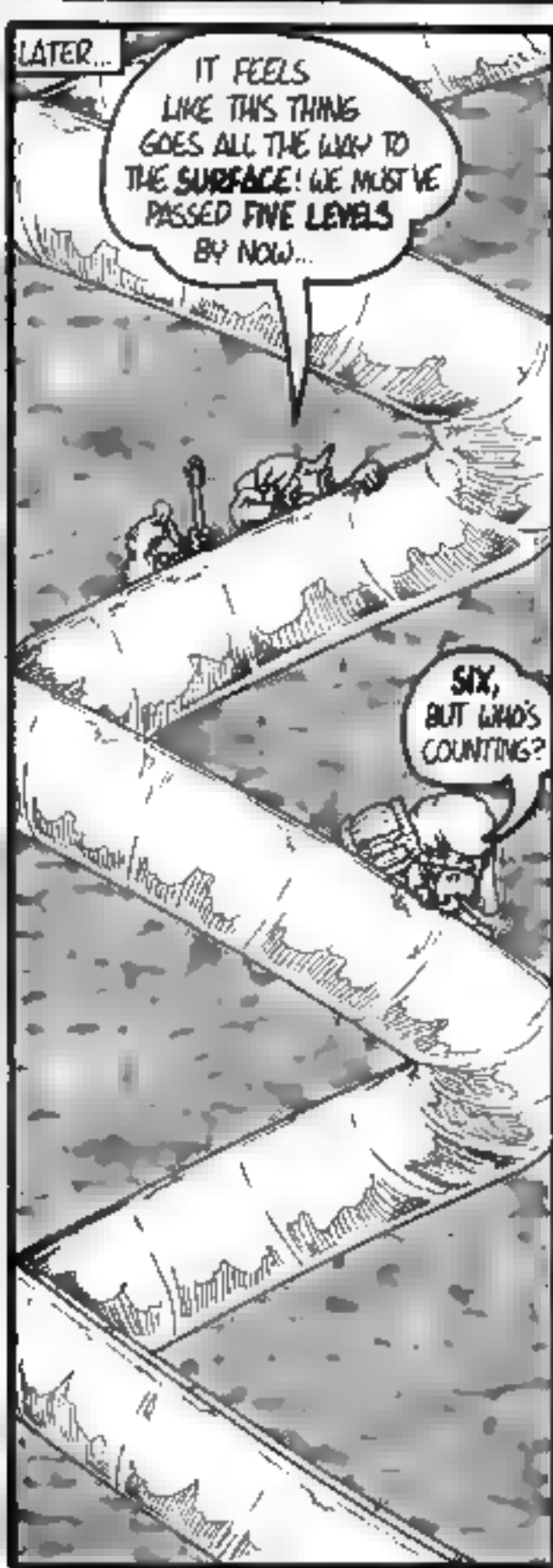
WELL, ONWARD,
THEN...

SURE. IGNORING THE
OBVIOUS IS A TIME-HONORED
TRADITION AROUND HERE.

AH-HA! THE
TRAIL LEADS RIGHT
THROUGH--

HUM?

I SAY, WOULD
YOU GO FETCH ME
A GOBLET OF
SPRING WATER
AND A PERFUMED
HANDKERCHIEF?
I'M PARCHED,
AND THIS PLACE
HAS QUITE THE
FOUL ODOR...





UM, HOW ABOUT SOME MAGIC?

DIVINE INTERVENTION?

A THROWN ROCK?

SOMETHING?



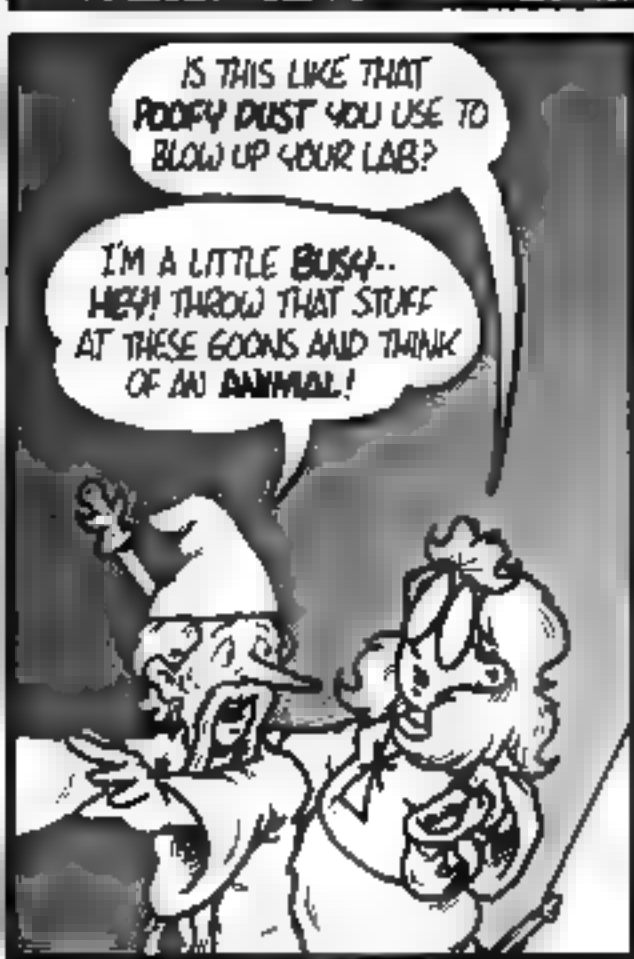
GUMDROP FOR ARTAX!

DON'T PASS OUT THE CANDY YET. THEIR WEAPONS ARE MAGICAL, SO THIS SHIELD WON'T LAST LONG...

WHAT'S THAT STUFF OVER THERE? CAN THAT HELP?



I THINK THEY'RE BAGS OF POWDER...



IS THIS LIKE THAT POOFY DUST YOU USE TO BLOW UP YOUR LAB?

I'M A LITTLE BUSY.. HEY! THROW THAT STUFF AT THESE GOONS AND THINK OF AN ANIMAL!



UM, OKAY, BUT--

GET READY... I'M DROPPING THE SHIELD IN THREE... TWO...



NOW!!!

I THOUGHT OF TWO ANIMALS. WAS THAT OKAY?

FINE, JUST FINE.

WHAT IS THIS, ANYWAY?



IT'S A COMPOUND SYNTHESIZED FROM MORPHEUS MOLD, COMBINED WITH SEVERAL POWERFUL SPELLS. I'VE NEVER SEEN IT IN THIS QUANTITY BEFORE...

THEY USED IT ON ME!



I USED TO BE THE ARCHDUCHE OF CRAGEN MOOR! NOW I'M... THIS.

NO OFFENSE, BUT I HEARD YOU WERE...UM, KIND OF A DESPOT. YOU HAD ONE OF THE HIGHEST TYRANNY RATINGS IN "FEUDAL WEEKLY."



THAT'S NOTHING! COMPARED TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN HERE, I'M A SAINT! THAT'S BRAGAN THE RED OVER THERE. OVER TEN SIBLINGS BETWEEN HIM AND HIS FATHER'S THRONE WOUND UP FLOATING IN HIS MOAT!

SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S LOCKING UP ICY-BAD ROYAL PEOPLE!



NOT NECESSARILY, PIFFINKY. I'VE TALKED TO THE OTHER CAPTIVES, AND A LOT OF THEM SEEM TO BE JUST CLUELESS NOBLES. THEY'D BE ANNOYING TO HAVE AROUND, BUT FOR THE MOST PART, THEY'RE HARMLESS.

HARMLESS UNTIL THEY'RE TURNED INTO MONSTERS, THAT IS.

AND GASSED SO THEY'LL GO BERSERK. IT MAKES A WEIRD KIND OF SENSE--

CLICK! CREEAAAK..





MEANWHILE, IN THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF THE LABYRINTH OF KROZ.



PIFFANY'S DUCT TAPE REVIVED THE FALLEN DUNGEON DENIZENS...



...WHILE ARTAX USED THE MORPHEUS DUST TO RESTORE THEIR BODIES.



OH, YOU'VE ALL BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE. I ADVISE YOU TO FIND QUIET LIVES SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY FROM WHERE YOU USED TO LIVE SINCE SOMEONE THERE TRIED TO DO ICKY-BAD STUFF TO YOU. IS EVERYONE GOOD WITH THAT? ALL RIGHT THEN, BYE-BYE!

SO YOU SEE, SOMEONE HAS BEEN USING THIS PLACE TO DISPOSE OF ANNOYING OR INCONVENIENT NOBILITY. THEY WERE KIDNAPPED, TRANSFORMED INTO MONSTERS, DROPPED INTO THE LABYRINTH AND GASSED INTO A STATE OF TOTAL RAGE. ADVENTURERS LIKE US WOULD OFF THEM, AND NO ONE WOULD BE THE WISER.

OH.



BUT WE'RE KEEPING THE LOOT, RIGHT?

OF COURSE. DON'T BE SILLY.

I HOPE THEY MANAGE TO GET ALONG WITHOUT INSPIRING MORE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS. THEY WORRY ME, THOUGH... ESPECIALLY THE ONES WHO SEEM ADDICTED TO SERVANTS.

I'M NOT THRILLED WITH THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT WE'RE PRODUCING THESE DAYS.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STINKERS WHO STARTED ALL THIS? WON'T THEY JUST SNATCH UP MORE VICTIMS?

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. THEY'LL HAVE A LITTLE SURPRISE IN STORE THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE USES THAT MAGIC POWDER OF THEIRS. I ALMOST WANT TO STICK AROUND TO SEE IT...

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

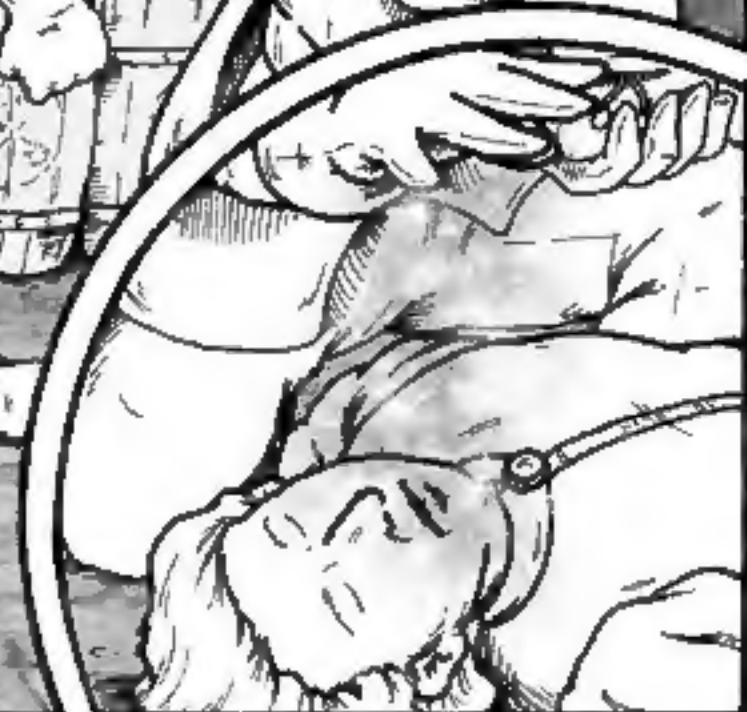
THEY'RE NOT IN HERE, EITHER.

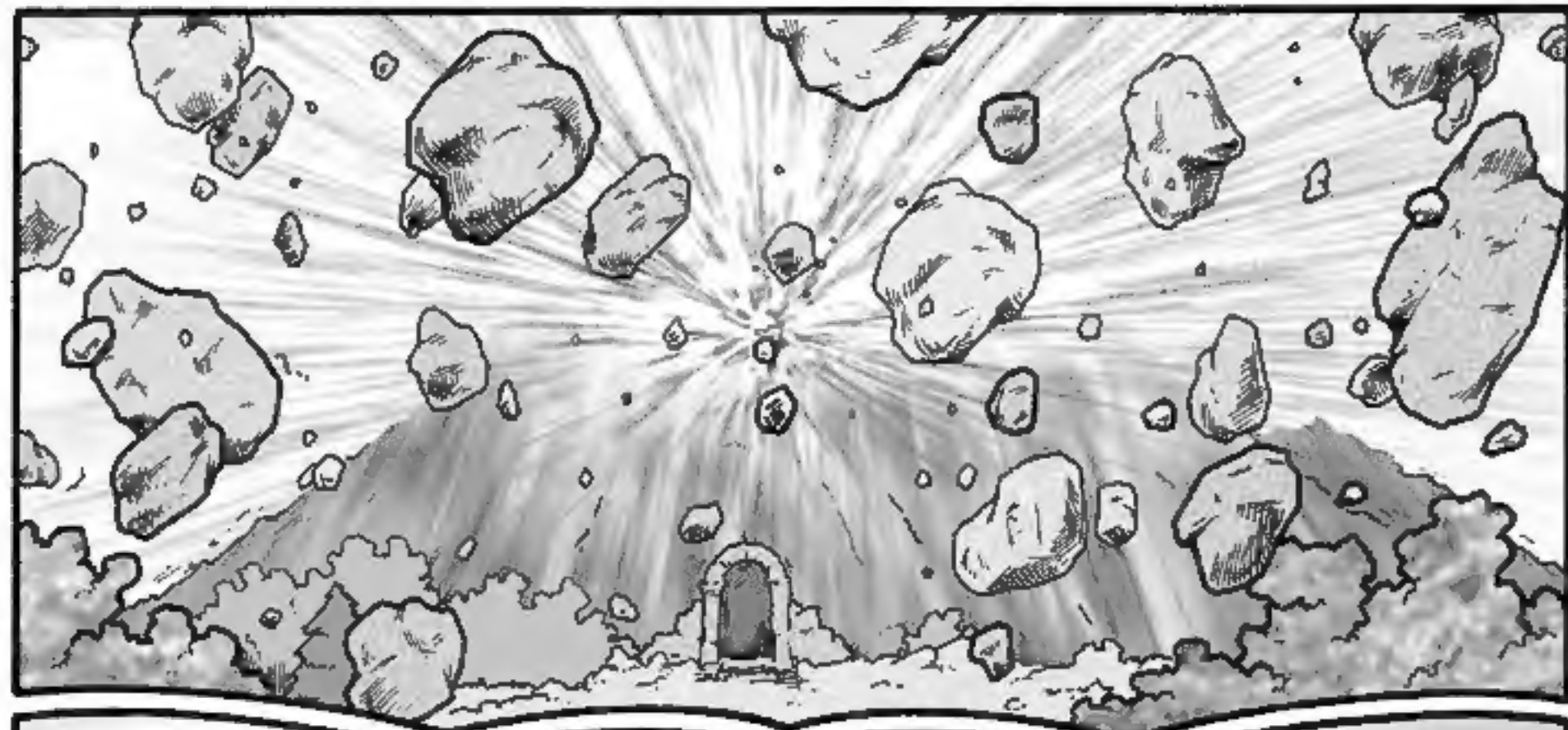
THE DUNGEON IS DESERTED, TOO. WHAT HAPPENED?

THEY MUST'VE ABANDONED THEIR POSTS. I WONDER IF THOSE ROYAL MORONS WERE ABLE TO BRIBE OUR COLLEAGUES INTO UNLOCKING THE CAGES?

IT DOESN'T MATTER; WE CAN HIRE MORE THUGS. NONE OF THE ESCAPEES HAVE BEEN SEEN, SO I DON'T THINK LORD BEVEMERE CAN COMPLAIN.

ANYWAY, WE NEED TO RE-STOCK THE DUNGEON. USE THE DUST AND GIVE THE MAZE ON LEVEL TEN A NEW MINOTAUR.





OH, MAN! EVERY
TIME I PARTY WITH
THE SERFS, I WAKE UP IN
A STRANGE PLACE...

...WITH A HEAD-
ACHE AND A BAD CASE
OF HEARTBURN.



HMM... I
APPEAR TO HAVE
MISPLACED MY
CLOTHES AGAIN.

OH, WELL. JUST
ANOTHER SUNDAY
MORNING...





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